



## **NOVEMBER 2014 Santa Cruz District Park Adventures, Events & Activities**



We hope you'll join us and share the news!

From sites rich in cultural history to the scenic beaches of the north coast, parks in the Santa Cruz District invite the visitor to explore and enjoy. The district stretches from the sand dunes of Sunset State Beach near Watsonville up the coast to Montara State Beach north of Half Moon Bay and inland to Castle Rock State Park near the town of Saratoga.

### **Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park**

Located on Hwy 1 between Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay (650)879-2120

*A Special Event!*

### **Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary - Daytime Celebration and Special Sunset Event Saturday, November 15, 2014 10 am to 6 pm (no lighting)**

Join California State Parks and the Coastside State Parks Association for a day-long celebration of the 142nd anniversary of Pigeon Point Light Station on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 10am to 6pm. The free event will include grounds tours, information booths, local authors, live music, a native plant sale, and light refreshments.

A special sunset event has been added this year: "Reflections on the Tower" is an outdoor slide show using the tower as the canvas. The slide show begins at 5:30 pm.

Explore the history of the lighthouse with a uniformed keeper or docent, discuss coastal history with local authors, or watch for whales and birds with knowledgeable volunteers. Children can follow a scavenger hunt to discover neat facts about the lighthouse and win a prize. There will also be a raffle to raise funds for programs at Pigeon Point. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You need not be present to win!

The First Order Fresnel Lens from the tower is currently on display in the Fog Signal Building so make sure to stop in there to see it! Then stop by the booth for the California State Parks Foundation to learn about the campaign to restore the tower so the lens can be returned to the top. Though we can't "light the light," we can enlighten your day. We're sure the day will be fun for the whole family.

Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park is located on Highway One, 20 miles south of Half Moon Bay and 30 miles north of Santa Cruz. For more information, call the park at 650-879-2120, during normal operating hours, Thursday – Monday, 10 AM – 4 PM, or email Julie Barrow at [Volunteers.PigeonPoint@Parks.CA.gov](mailto:Volunteers.PigeonPoint@Parks.CA.gov).

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California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>**



Co-sponsored by California State Parks and the Coastside State Parks Association  
[www.parks.ca.gov/PigeonPoint](http://www.parks.ca.gov/PigeonPoint) and [www.CoastsideStateParks.org](http://www.CoastsideStateParks.org)  
and follow us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/PigeonPointLightHouse](http://www.Facebook.com/PigeonPointLightHouse)  
Awarded 2014 Certificate of Excellence by [www.TripAdvisor.com](http://www.TripAdvisor.com)

## **Wilder Ranch State Park**

Located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1 (831) 426-0505

*A Special Event!*

### **Life on the Ranch: Family Living History Day Sunday, November 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Wilder Ranch State Park invites you to experience old-time activities from its rancho, dairy farm, and cowboy rodeo days. Hands-on activities vary each month and may include: butter churning, ice cream making, wood stove baking, rope making, wagon rides and a variety of living history demonstrations in the ranch buildings. Come for a picnic on the lawn and follow it up with a game of tug of war, sack races, hoops, stilts, and Wilder Ranch's famous old-fashioned bubbles! The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve. The park is located 2 miles north of Santa Cruz on the coast side of Highway 1 at 1401 Coast Road Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Day-use parking fee is \$10. This event is appropriate for all ages. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

### **Wilder Ranch Tours and Living History Demonstrations**

#### **Weekends from 11 am to 3 pm**

#### **Guided Tour of the Ranch Buildings Weekends at 1pm**

Visit an early day dairy ranch and step back in time to the late 1800's at Wilder Ranch State Park. You can also play Victorian games or bring a picnic to enjoy on the front lawn, visit the farm animals and see what activities are taking place on the ranch this weekend; You may learn about hand quilting, watch blacksmithing, or wood stove baking techniques. Call (831) 426-0505 for more details.

### **History, Nature, and Scenic Views: A Tour of the Backcountry**

#### **Saturday, November 15 at 9 am**

This challenging guided three-hour hike will explore the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch State Park. Meet at the Wilder Ranch parking lot. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, snacks, and water. Hike cancelled if rain.

### **Wilder Ranch Coast Nature Walks**

#### **Saturdays, November 1, 8, 22 and 29 at 11am**

On these two-hour natural history excursions you will explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs. Meet at the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and good walking shoes. Binoculars are now available to borrow.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. Visit us on the web at [www.thatismypark.org](http://www.thatismypark.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## **Butano State Park**

1500 Cloverdale Rd., Pescadero, CA 94060, (650) 879-2040  
[www.friendsofbutano.blogspot.com](http://www.friendsofbutano.blogspot.com) or [facebook.com/ButanoStatePark](http://facebook.com/ButanoStatePark)

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## **ASL Nature Walk: "The Miracle of Redwoods"**

**Sunday, November 23rd, 1:30-3:30 PM**

Attendance limited to 20 people. Reserve your spot by emailing [ano.volcoordinator@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ano.volcoordinator@parks.ca.gov) or calling 650/879.2032

In this special opportunity we are fortunate to have American Sign Language docent Patty Lessard co-lead a 1-mile easy, in and out walk along the Little Butano Creek Trail at Butano State Park. Discover the amazing adaptations and ecology of redwood trees. As we walk underneath the giant redwoods, we will answer questions such as: how do these giant trees survive? How are they interconnected with the surrounding community? What is their conservation status? After this tour, your walks in the woods will never be the same!

Meet at the Little Butano Creek Trail head. Bring water bottle, snacks, and binoculars. Potable water and toilets are available at the picnic area located about 150 yards from park entrance. Optional: continue the walk with a 1.5-mile moderate to strenuous hike to Goat Hill Trail to view an old growth redwood tree.

## **Wildflower Walk**

**Sunday, November 9th, from 11am to 3pm**

Walk along the trails of Butano State Park with Volunteer Naturalist Scott Peden. This is a slowly-paced walk with time to discover and identify plants, flowers and animals in the park, and allow for photography if you choose. Bring water, lunch or snacks, and plenty of questions. Meet Scott at the park's Visitor Center near the entrance station. Allow 3 to 4 hours for this walk.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Coastside State Parks Foundation. Visit us on the web at [www.CoastsideStateParks.org](http://www.CoastsideStateParks.org) and Facebook.com/CoastsideStateParks or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## **Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**

**Located Off Hwy 9 in Felton (831) 335-7077**

## **Old-Growth Redwood Walks**

**Every Saturday and Sunday in November at 1 p.m.**

Meet at the Visitor Center via the Park's main entrance off Hwy 9 in Felton.

Experience a guided forest adventure on a docent-led walk through the magnificent old-growth coast redwood forest. This .8 mile long stroll lasts about 1.5 hours. The trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Program is free, parking fee is \$10. More information is available at (831)335-7077.

## **Mysteries of the Sandhills**

**Thursday, November 13 at 11 a.m.**

**Meets at the Campfire Center off Graham Hill Road**

Join Park Interpreter Rose as she guides you through the unique and precious sandhill ecosystem at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. She will explain what makes the sandhills so extraordinary and what plants and animals inhabit the area. Meet at the Campfire Center at 11am, at the park entrance off Graham Hill Road in the Campground Area. The walk will be cancelled if it is raining.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Mountain Parks Foundation

## **Natural Bridges State Beach**

Located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz (831) 423-4609

### **Tours of the Monarch Grove -- October through January**

#### **Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 & 2:00**

Join a Docent Naturalist for a tour of the state designated monarch butterfly preserve at Natural Bridges State Beach. Monarch butterflies are returning this fall to their winter home along our coast. Learn the story of this beautiful creature and its fascinating seasonal migration. Public tours are offered on weekends and no reservations are necessary, or you may call 423-4609 to arrange a tour for a group of 10 or more. Fall walks begin the 3rd weekend in October and continue through January or as long as monarchs are present: Monarch numbers vary, usually the highest numbers are visible in November/December. Meet at the Visitor Center for the hour-long program. The walk is wheelchair accessible.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. Visit us on the web at [www.thatsmypark.org](http://www.thatsmypark.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## **Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center**

Located 17 miles north of Santa Cruz, at 3600 Highway One, Davenport, California 95017  
Open Weekends Noon to 4 pm. Call (831)427-2288 for more information or to schedule a group.

### **Wildflower Hike**

#### **Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 10:00 am**

Take a hike among the wildflowers of Rancho del Oso's Waddell Valley. Docent naturalist Scott Peden will lead an approximately 4-mile hike to view a variety of wildflowers – there's always something exciting in bloom! Photographers are easily accommodated. Show up with lunch, water and energy to hike! *Hike starts at the yellow gate located across the street from Waddell Beach.*

### **Fireside Stories**

#### **Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 12 pm**

Pretend, play, sing and explore! Bring the family and gather round the fireplace together at the Nature and History Center for a story followed by activities focused on the theme of the story. This 30-minute program will introduce youngsters (recommend children be at least 3) to the wonders of nature!

### **Raptors at the Ranch**

#### **Saturday, November 15, 2014 at 2:00 pm**

Join Rancho del Oso, in cooperation with Native Bird Connections, for a dynamic presentation of LIVE non-releasable wild birds at the Nature and History Center! In this hour-long program, there will also be touchable artifacts that include feet, feathers, wings and skulls of various birds. Bring questions for this exciting afternoon learning more about these powerful birds, and what the world looks like through their eyes.

### **Critter Crafts**

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### **Sunday, November 16, 2014 drop-in from 12pm to 4pm**

Drop in for fun nature-themed craft time at the Nature and History Center. We will have a FREE make-and-take-activity most children can complete independently, although parents may need to assist preschool-aged children. Any age child is welcome to participate!

### **Way up to Westridge Hike**

#### **Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 10 am**

Join us on a hike up the Clark Connection Trail to where it meets the Westridge Trail. We'll travel from sea level to views of Ano Nuevo and coastal valleys atop the ridge on this strenuous, 4-hour, 6-mile hike. Arrive early at the Highway 1 gate across from Waddell Beach, and then walk in approximately 1 mile to the Ranger Station to meet your guide. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and energy to hike!

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Waddell Creek Association.

Visit us on the web at [www.ranchodeloso.org](http://www.ranchodeloso.org) or [www.facebook.com/RDOSP](http://www.facebook.com/RDOSP) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## **Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park**

Located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz (831) 425-5849

November hours of operation are Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 10am to 4pm.

### **Mission Cooking Demonstration**

#### **Saturday November 1 at 1 pm**

Come to Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park and experience different culinary styles of the people who lived and worked here over 200 years ago. There will be a presentation of Ohlone and Spanish cuisine including hot rock cooking, tortilla frying on a Comal and baking in our Horno. You can even sample the creations and make your own tortilla. The event is FREE. Rain cancels. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz. Please call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

### **Archeology Demonstration**

#### **Saturday, November 8 at 1pm**

How do artifacts give us clues to the past? Follow the archeological process from the dig to the display, and participate in hands-on activities to discover the stories told by the artifacts.

Presented in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Archeological Society. This event is FREE. Rain Cancels. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet St. in Santa Cruz. Please call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

### **Wool, Spinning, and Weaving**

#### **Saturday, November 15 at 1pm**

How did an isolated settlement clothe the hundreds of people who lived there? Take an in depth look at the cloth industry of Mission Santa Cruz. We will follow the path of wool from the sheep to the shirt. You will have the chance to try your hand at a drop spindle and spin your own wool. The event is FREE. Rain or Shine. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz. Please call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

### **Building Methods**

#### **Saturday, November 22 at 1pm**

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Come and see how the oldest building in town was made. We will look at the materials used by the Ohlone to build their homes and then at the materials used by the Spanish to build Mission Santa Cruz. You will have the chance to get your hands dirty and make your own mini abode brick. The event is FREE. Rain Cancels. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz. Please call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

### **Drop - In Family Craft – Candle Dipping**

**Friday, November 28 from 1-3pm**

Enjoy an informal afternoon at this hidden jewel near downtown Santa Cruz. You can hand-dip a wax candle in our garden courtyard. The event is FREE. Rain Cancels. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz. Please call (831) 425-5849 for more information.

### **Guided Adobe Tour**

**Saturday, November 29 at 1pm**

Join us at the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park for a guided tour of the oldest building in Santa Cruz. Come learn about the many families who have called this 180-year-old mission adobe their home. This event is FREE. Tours are conducted rain or shine. The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on School St. off of Mission and Emmet Street in Santa Cruz

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## **Big Basin Redwoods State Park**

Located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 (831) 338-8883

### **Redwood Loop Walk**

**Every Saturday and Sunday at 11 am and 2 pm**

**AND Friday, November 28 at 11 am and 2 pm**

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old-growth redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this 90-minute walk. Stroller and wheelchair accessible. Meet at Headquarters.

### **Discover Big Basin!**

**Sunday, November 2 at 12 pm**

**Saturday, November 8 at 12 pm**

**Saturday, November 22 at 12 pm**

**Saturday, November 29 at 12 pm**

On this 4-hour, 4-mile leisurely hike with Docent Barry Grimm we'll traverse old-growth redwood and Douglas-fir forest in some of the park's most scenic backcountry. We'll look at the forest in new ways and share our findings. Compact digital cameras are encouraged to help us share what we see. This hike is suitable for adults and young adults who are diligent hikers. Dress in layers for changeable weather and temperatures. Bring sturdy walking shoes, water and trail snacks. Meet at Park Headquarters.

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### **Volunteer with the Trail Crew**

**Saturday, November 8 at 9 am (*must be 18 years of age or older*)**

Since 1969 the Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew has helped make it possible for others to safely enjoy the beauty of our park. The Trail Crew meets the second Saturday of each month, rain or shine. A typical workday lasts until mid-afternoon. Please bring your own work gloves, lunch and water. Join us for a unique perspective of Big Basin, a lively and productive experience with others who share a love of these redwood forests, and the satisfaction of participating in a vital part of the park's ability to educate and inspire the public! Meet at Park Headquarters. Check [www.bigbasintrailcrew.org](http://www.bigbasintrailcrew.org) to confirm dates and time.

### **Berry Creek Falls Hike**

**Sunday, November 9 at 9:30 am**

Travel deep into the heart of Big Basin as you experience a wide range of habitats on this moderate to strenuous 11-mile-loop hike. Wind through shady redwood canyons and climb dry ridges as you hike to the jewel of Big Basin—65-foot Berry Creek Falls. Bring lots of water, lunch and wear layers. Docent Bill Rhoades guides you on this seven-hour hike. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Wildflower Walk!**

**Saturday, November 15 at 10 am**

**AND Sunday, November 16 at 10 am**

Join Docent Scott Peden and learn to identify many of Big Basin's flowering plants. You'll also visit several historical spots within the park. Saturday's walk is a leisurely four-mile, four-hour walk that includes two chimney trees and a waterfall. Sunday's walk is a relaxed five-mile, five-hour walk that includes a chimney tree. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Shadowbrook Stroll**

**Saturday, November 15 at 12 pm**

Join Docent Hal Anjo as he guides you on a less-traveled trail that takes you by Union Creek, to the Sempervirens Falls and back through the redwoods. This is a four-mile, 3.5-hour hike. Bring water and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Hike to Buzzard's Roost**

**Sunday, November 16 at 9:45 am**

Develop your hiking muscles with this challenging 5-mile, 4-hour round trip to Buzzard's Roost. We'll gain 1,200 feet in elevation as we hike to a dramatic rock formation with a commanding view of the park. After a relaxed lunch on the rocks, we return to headquarters. Bring at least one liter of water, lunch, snacks, and appropriate clothing. Rain cancels. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **The Road Less Traveled—A Dog-Friendly Walk**

**Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 am**

On this dog-friendly walk, we travel on North Escape Road, a paved road closed to traffic. We tour stunning old-growth redwood groves along beautiful Opal Creek. We'll discuss redwood ecology and park history while exploring the deep shade of the redwood forest. This is a fun, easy, three-mile, two-hour roundtrip walk with Docent Micki Downs and her dog Spock. Dogs not required, but welcome! Bring water and meet at Park Headquarters.

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### **Coffee Talk and Crafts**

**Sunday, November 23 from 9-12**

**AND Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27 from 9:30-1:30**

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Park Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate! This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin. A Big Basin Docent will be happy to answer your questions about the park and help get you going on the right trail. And there's a fun craft activity for the kids!

### **The Hidden Descent**

**Sunday, November 23 at 10 am**

Feel like the first person to explore a new forest! We hike upward on the Dool Trail and have a snack at Ocean View Summit. Continuing along Middle Ridge Road, we descend following Opal Creek on the Hollow Tree Trail. The feel of the forest is remote and isolated. The trail is steep and leaf-covered, adding to the sense of adventure. We eat lunch beside the ruins of the Johansen Shingle Mill, built in 1927. Bring at least 1.5 liters of water, lunch, snacks, and appropriate clothing. This challenging 9-mile, 4.5-hour hike gains about 1000' elevation. Although we hike at a moderate pace, the distance makes it a strenuous hike. This hike runs rain or shine. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Meteor Trail Hike**

**Friday, November 28 at 10 am**

Join docent Kathy Willott on one of our most diverse hikes—by mountain streams, oak woodlands, chaparral and redwoods. You'll discuss forests, flowers and fires on a six-mile, 3.5-hour hike. This somewhat strenuous ascent is rewarded with ocean views on a clear day. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Mountain Parks Foundation.  
Visit us on the web at [www.mountainparks.org](http://www.mountainparks.org) or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)